

Consecration

CONTENTS

<i>We Belong to God</i>	1
<i>Our Sins Belong to God</i>	2
<i>The Blessed Transaction</i>	3
<i>Daily Consecration</i>	5
<i>Freedom from Sin</i>	5
<i>Our Possessions Are His</i>	6

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Consecration is simply the constant recognition of the fact that we are the Lord's and not our own. He who learns that this is a fact, and lives in the constant living presence and recognition of it as the great fact,—he is consecrated, and this is consecration.

Now is this a hard thing to do in itself and as the Lord has fixed it. People make it hard for themselves, by thinking it to be something that it is not, and trying to accomplish it in a way that is not the Lord's way, and even then they miss it. And, in truth, going about it in another than the Lord's way they cannot possibly do anything else than miss it.

We Belong to God

Is it a fact, then, that we are the Lord's? Of course it is; for it is written:

1 Corinthians 6

²⁰ You are bought with a price.

And the price is...

1 Peter 1

¹⁹ ...the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

For He...

Titus 2

¹⁴ ...gave Himself for us.

This “price” was paid for every soul that is on earth, and for every one who ever was or ever shall be on earth; for “He died for all.” *2 Corinthians* 5:15. Having died for all; having paid the wondrous price for all; having given Himself for all;—having thus bought, and paid the price for all, it is certainly a fact that all are his.

Therefore it is written:

1 Corinthians 6

¹⁹ You are not your own; for you are bought with a price:

²⁰ Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Our Sins Belong to God

He not only gave Himself for us, but for all there is of us—yes, even for our sins. For again it is written that He...

Galatians 1

⁴ ...gave Himself for our sins.

And He did it...

⁴ ...that He might deliver us from this present evil world;

That He might...

Titus 2

¹⁴ ...purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works;

That He might present us...

Jude

²⁴ ...faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

In one word,

1 Peter 3

¹⁸ ...that He might bring us to God.

He so loved us that He wants to save us. But He cannot save us *in* our sins. He will save us *from* our sins. And as our whole self is sin and sin only, in order to get us, in order to buy us, He had to buy our sins also. So in giving Himself for us, He gave Himself for our sins too. And as we are His, because He bought us with that great price, so also our sins are His, for He bought them with the same great price.

The Blessed Transaction

Then will you let Him have the sins which He has bought? or will you hold on to these yourself? Will you let Him have what is His own? Will you let Him do what He will with His own? And what will He do with these sins?

O, he will forgive them!

1 John 1

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

He will make them as white as snow.

Isaiah 1

¹⁸ Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

He will put them away.

Hebrews 9

²⁶ ...but now once in the end of the world has He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

He will cast them into the depths of the sea.

Micah 7

¹⁹ He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and you will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

He will remove them from us as far as the east is from the west.

Psalm 103

¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

He will cast them all behind His back.

Isaiah 38

¹⁷ ...You have in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for you have cast all my sins behind your back.

And when they are all cast behind His back, He and His own throne will stand between us and them, as the pledge that we are free from them; and the rainbow round about the throne will be the sign—the token—of the everlasting covenant that our sins and iniquities will be remembered no more.

Hebrews 8

¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Thus in giving Himself for our sins, He gave Himself to us. In giving Himself for us, He gave Himself to us. So when we let Him have our sins, we get Him instead. When we let Him have ourselves, we get Himself instead. Will you make the exchange now? Would you rather have Him than your sins? Then let Him have them. Make the blessed exchange today.

- Would you rather have His way than your way?
- Would you rather have His life than your life?
- Would you rather have His disposition than your disposition?
- Would you rather have His character than your character?
- Would you rather have Him than yourself?

Would you? “To be sure I would,” you say. Then, O! let Him

have you now; make the blessed surrender, and exchange now and forevermore.

Daily Consecration

This is consecration. And thus it is a daily, an hourly, a constant recognition, in gratitude and thankfulness, that we are His own. So each day,

Steps to Christ, p. 70:

Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee." This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate.

Say:

"I am the purchased possession of Jesus Christ, and every hour I must consecrate myself to His service."

Steps to Christ, p. 70:

Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be moulded more and more after the life of Christ.

This is consecration. And it is not a burden, but a living, everlasting joy.

Freedom from Sin

Therefore,

Romans 6

¹¹ Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹³ ...yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you...

“Sin shall not have dominion over you,”—is that promise worth anything to you, brethren? It is worth all that God is worth to the one who reckons himself to be dead indeed unto sin, and alive unto God through Jesus Christ; and who yields himself unto God, and his members unto God as instruments for God to use. To this one God has declared,

“Sin shall not have dominion over you.”

Thank the Lord for this blessed promise of freedom from sin and all the power of sin. And this promise He will make a fact in the life and experience of every one who reckons thus and yields to God.

- You furnish the reckoning, He will furnish the fact.
- You yield to Him, and He will use you.
- You yield to Him your members, and He will use them only as instruments of righteousness.

And so, “sin shall not have dominion over you,” for God is stronger than sin.

Our Possessions Are His

Now another thing. When you are the Lord’s yourself, then whose are those things that are in your possession? Whose are the children? Whose is the money? Whose are the houses, the lands, the cattle? Whose? Can you tell? Are they yours, or His? How can they be yours, when you yourself are not your own? When you yourself are the Lord’s, whose are all these things but the Lord’s? Of course they are His. They are His just as much as you are. And they are His just as certainly as you are.

Haggai 2

⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts.

Psalm 50

¹⁰ Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

¹¹ ...and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Exodus 19

⁵ All the earth is mine.

Is not the earth the purchased possession also of the Lord, to be made new for the saints' inheritance?

So then, all these things are the Lord's, as well as yourselves.

- Will you yield these to Him, as well as yourself?
- Will you recognize His ownership of these as well as of yourself?
- In all these will you let Him have His own, or will you withhold it?

Ah! be careful, lest in withholding any of these, you withhold yourself.

- In all these will you let Him do what He will with His own?
- Will you let Him have your children to use as He will? or will you refuse and use them as you will?
- Will you count the money as all His own, and let Him use it as He will, let Him do what He will with His own? or will you withhold it and use it as you will?
- And so with the houses, the lands, and all. Will you count them all the Lord's, held only subject to His will and His call?
- Will you recognize constantly that all these things are the Lord's, and not your own, just as you recognize that you are the Lord's and not your own?

As certainly as you are the Lord's indeed, so certainly are all these things the Lord's indeed. This is consecration.

Let us be glad that the time is coming, and that it is near, when once more it will be that the multitude of them that believe will be of one heart and one soul; and neither will any say that aught of the things that he possesses are his own. *Acts 4:32.*

Of old, none said that aught that he possessed was his own, because he recognized that it was all the Lord's. And he recognized that it was all the Lord's because he recognized and knew that he himself was the Lord's indeed.

- Thus was it at the beginning of the work of the gospel; and thus will it be at the close.
- Thus was it in the early rain; thus will it be in the time of the latter rain.
- This was consecration then; this is consecration now;

For the times of refreshing have come from the presence of the Lord, and soon He will send Jesus.

1 Chronicles 29

⁵ And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?